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the several portraits of the declaiming and expounding Goethe (pp. 325-338) have more human value than a whole new *Jahrbuch* of the Goethe Gesellschaft. Mme. Reinhard makes her most serious effort in the journal of her Russian trip (p. 235 ff.), and the way in which the reader is brought near to Russian prisons, Russian officials and Russian landscape, must convince him that the writer's intellect is quite on a level with her artistic perceptions.

FERDINAND SCHWILL.

*Souvenirs Politiques du Comte de Salaberry sur la Restauration, 1821-30.* Publiés pour la Société d'Histoire Contemporaine par le Comte de SALABERRY son petit-fils. (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1900. Two vols., pp. xix, 285, 325.)

THESE volumes are the latest publications of the "Société d'Histoire Contemporaine," and show a commendable activity on the part of that organization. But the society might easily have found more valuable objects of its preservative care; we have here in fact little more than a series of political pamphlets thrown into a connected narrative form (with the narrative very incomplete, and always a secondary and indeed incidental matter), and almost wholly unprovided with documents. Very little information of convincing weight is to be garnered here, and the accepted general conclusions are not affected. We are told much in regard to individuals both small and great that the close student will consider; but most of the personal sketches are hopelessly vague and incomplete, and of interest mainly as reflecting malicious political gossip. The author deigns to touch nothing that is not political; the student will search these volumes in vain for any direct light on general social or intellectual conditions.

The "Souvenirs" begin with the formation of the Villèle ministry in the middle of December 1821, and close with the elections of June 1830, Vol. II. beginning with 1826; the arrangement is loosely chronological, and the matter is divided into "Livres" on no perceptible principle. We therefore have here no information or reflections on the revolutionary events of 1830, though we reach the very verge of the catastrophe, and in the last pages (probably written after July 1830), have some statements with reference to preceding revolutionary disturbances that we suspect display knowledge after the event. The question of the date of the composition or final revision is invested with difficulty. The editor does not refer to the point (a fact which is representative of the value of the editing) and we are thrown entirely upon internal evidence. From this I conclude that these "essais" (as the author himself terms them,—II. 35), were written almost entirely in the reign of Charles X., and that the work was never carefully revised (frequent repetitions and abrupt ending); the writing was probably begun late in 1824 or early in 1825, and continued thereafter at probably never more than a year's distance from the events dealt with. They were evidently written for the public (see I. 9, 178; II. 35, 68), but apparently the revolution

of 1830 so interfered with the writer's position and plans (he lived in provincial literary labors till 1847) that he abandoned a publication that perhaps would not have been safe under the July monarchy (there are frequent attacks upon the Duc d'Orléans). What the editor has now done in the way of revision or arrangement is not shown; almost the only editorial work visible is a very inadequate biographical sketch, and a large amount of personal notes of this order: "Jean-Pierre-Claude-Nicolas Moyne-Petiot, député de Saone-et-Loire de 1828 à 1830; né en 1783, mort en 1853,"—information that we are given in regard to almost every individual mentioned (a vast number), no matter how incidental the reference or how obscure the person (generally however without any statement of political affiliations). And yet this is precisely a case where full editorial aid is essential, where it ought to be lavished in making clear to us obscure political situations and connections that the writer refers to in ordinary pamphleteering style.

What is the value of these "Souvenirs" to the investigator? They are written by a man of sixty who is a devoted Royalist of the more moderate Villèle section. They are written in the bitterness of impending or accomplished defeat by a man who had always been distinguished among his own narrow and passionate and intolerant associates for his uncompromising political positions and the violence of his expression of them.<sup>1</sup> It is evident therefore that we must scrutinize every sentence with deep distrust. The writer had been an émigré (as the editor naïvely puts it, "avait voyagé en Allemagne en 1790 et 1791"), whose father had lost his head on a revolutionary scaffold in 1794, and who himself had fought among the Vendéans; elected from Blois to the "Chambre Introuvable" in 1815, he held that seat till 1830. He was in his day of no particular political importance, though a characteristic and respected figure, and was never in office; his tastes were literary and a large section of the editor's meagre introduction is occupied by a list of his very varied productions. The reader of the *Souvenirs* will not be surprised that none of these productions had previously been known to him; though a felicitous expression here and there and poetical effusions scattered throughout bear witness to the "esprit" with which Mme. de Staël credited him, the book is on the whole dreary reading.

In what degree does M. de Salaberry illustrate the opinions and passions of the Ultra-Royalists in the years 1821-30? The epoch to which the writer always looks back fondly is that of the "Chambre Introuvable," and he cannot forget or forgive its dismissal in 1816. Richelieu is for him a nincompoop, all his supporters fools or knaves; it is only with Charles X. that the good time comes fully in again. There could be no better illustration of the attitude toward the crown of the Ultra-Royalists than we have in M. de Salaberry's hysterical account of the coronation of Charles X. (I. 173-191). All Liberals are to him revolutionist, anti-monarchical, Carbonarist, made such simply by private passions and

<sup>1</sup> See editor's preface, pp. xii, xiii. The Count was referred to in a political squib of the time as "Don Quichotte Salaberry."

unholy ambitions. At times he falls into political disquisitions ; one of the most instructive passages of this kind is that in which he discourses on Liberals and liberalism (without the capital, I. 199). The terms altar and throne are usually found together in his pages ; opponents of the monarchical supremacy are *ipso facto* atheists ; government is effective just in proportion to its identification of the interests of Church and State. He is a strong supporter of all the distinctive Ultra-Royalist measures of the Villèle period, and a bitter opponent of the press ; he condemns the removal of the censure at the beginning of the reign of Charles X. and advises the government to make use of its exceptional powers to punish the courts for not condemning journals.

In this intolerance of public opinion our author deviates from the anti-Villèle Ultras, for the simple reason that he is Ministerialist and they are in opposition. It is necessary to keep in mind the split in the Royalist ranks that became pronounced in the new Chamber of 1824 ; the dismissal of Chateaubriand and Bellune from the ministry converted a latent hostility to Villèle into active opposition, and from this time on these "Royalistes de la Défection" attacked Villèle and his measures on every occasion. This opposition was undoubtedly factious and unprincipled : but it is evident that Salaberry in his condemnation of it (almost as marked a feature of the *Souvenirs* as hatred of the Liberals) is equally impelled by personal influences. His positions differed in no important degree from the extreme Ultra ones, and he repeatedly urges measures fully as unwise and arbitrary as those finally adopted. He continues loyal to Villèle to the end. The Martignac administration he condemns as one of concessions by which only the revolutionists profited, while that of Polignac, while monarchical and religious, is weak and disunited (II. 276, 284).

The divergence of M. de Salaberry as a close adherent of Villèle from the party with which he is really in sympathy, brings him into some difficulties and inconsistencies, especially in connection with the Spanish war. But perhaps it is not particularly profitable to dwell on the vagaries of this weak-headed and narrow-spirited, though undoubtedly upright and gallant gentleman. On the whole it would seem that his admiring posterity were ill-advised in permitting his paper to go to publication in this form, and that we need not be moved by any acute sense of gratitude for their oversight.

VICTOR COFFIN.

*Russia and the Russians.* By EDMUND NOBLE. (Boston : Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1900. Pp. 285.)

MR. NOBLE is one of the very few American writers who have attempted to make a serious study of Russia, present and past, and we hail him as such. To be sure, the fact that he is the author of *The Russian Revolt* and the correspondent of *Free Russia* will in itself suggest the likelihood of certain limitations to his capacity as an historian. It is not, however, a history strictly speaking that he has tried to give us in